

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DPW-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1540

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC VS ICRC

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIETNAM: VISIT OF ICRC REPRESENTATIVE

REF: (A) BANGKOK 20539; (B) GENEVA 5784; (C) STATE 181742

1. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION CONTAINED REF B, MISSION
LEARNED RENE BAERISWYL CURRENTLY IN GENEVA AND
ARRANGED INTERVIEW WITH HIM TODAY.

2. ALTHOUGH BAERISWYL SEEMED FORTHCOMING, LITTLE
RELEVANT INFORMATION BEYOND THAT CONTAINED REF A DEVELOPED.
HE STATED THAT GROUP OF 37 AMERICANS EXPECTED ON AUGUST
1 FLIGHT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR MOST, IF NOT ALL,
AMERICAN PRINCIPALS REGISTERED IN SAIGON WITH ICRC. HE INQUIRED
WHETHER GOUGLEMAN (REF C) WAS ON LIST, AND WHEN
ADVISED NOT, CONFIRMED THAT HIS LAST INFORMATION WAS
THAT GOUGLEMAN IMPRISONED. HE DENIED ANY SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE
OF AMERICANS WHO MIGHT HAVE DIED IN VIETNAM IN RECENT
MONTHS OR OF OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE IN PRISON THERE. HE DID
STATE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME AMERICANS COULD VERY EASILY BE HIDDEN
AWAY FROM VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES IN CHINESE CHOLON DISTRICT.

3. BEYOND THE LIST OF PRINCIPALS WITH AMERICAN
PASSPORTS, BAERISWYL SAID THERE WERE 16 CHILDREN
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WITH AMERICAN PASSPORTS REGISTERED WITH THE ICRC OFFICE,

WHOSE PARENTS HAD LEFT AND WHO WERE RESIDING WITH GRANDPARENTS OR OTHER RELATIVES IN SAIGON. FURTHER, HE REFERRED AGAIN TO THE 80 VIETNAMESE WIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE AWAITING EXIT PERMITS (REF A), THE ISSUANCE OF WHICH IN TURN DEPENDED UPON THEIR OBTAINING VISAS OR ENTRY PERMITS FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CASE OF HOANG THI BAKER WHO, HE SAID, HAD SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING VIETNAMESE EXIT PERMIT AND HAD HOPED TO DEPART IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. IN GENERAL TERMS, BAERISWYL SAID THAT, LEAVING ASIDE LARGE NUMBERS OF CAMBODIANS WHO HAD CROSSED BORDER INTO VIETNAM AND WHO COULD CAUSE REAL PROBLEMS IN FUTURE, LEADING FOREIGN COMMUNITIES REMAINING THERE NOW WERE TAIWANESE (WHOSE NUMBER HE PLACED AT ROUGHLY 2,000 OF TOTAL 600,000 ETHNIC CHINESE), INDOCHINESE-ETHNIC FRENCH PASSPORT HOLDERS, PHILIPPINOS AND KOREANS. ABRAMS

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